

WILLIAM EATON HORNER SR.



William Eaton Horner, Sr., was born on March 2, 1807, in Adams County, Pennsylvania. He joined the Church, being baptized the 17th of November, 1836, in Washington County, Maryland, by Erastus Snow. He was ordained into the Ninth Quorum of Seventy in Nauvoo the 9th of October, 1844. He was the son of James and Margaret Horner, and lived in Nauvoo and was well acquainted with the Prophet Joseph Smith, and was one of his bodyguards. Some time before his death, the Prophet said to him: "Brother Horner, the time will come when I will not be here to lead this people and I want to tell you if you will follow the majority of the Twelve Apostles, who have a record of the Church, you will always be right."

William E. Horner was one of the earliest pioneers of Utah, crossing the plains in 1847. He spent part of his time freighting merchandise from St. Joseph, Missouri, to Utah, and also on to California in the summer and returning to St. Joseph in the winter.

In the winter of 1849 he, with others, became lost in a snowstorm and had his

393

394

HOW

feet badly frozen, one toe having to be amputated.

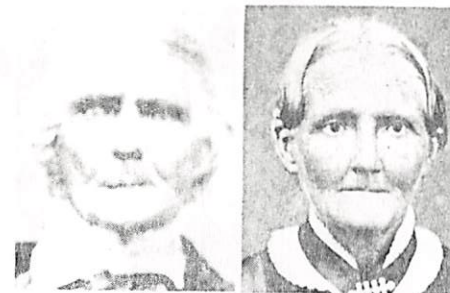
On December 11, 1851, he married Miss Jane Freeman Pea, the ceremony being performed by President Brigham Young in the home of Charles C. Rich. They lived in Salt Lake some two years, where two of their children were born, one of which he never saw, as he was absent from home freighting about a year and the child died when only a few months old.

About 1857 they moved to Springville, where he ran the Houtz gristmill. Later they moved to Provo, where he ran the gristmill about five years, but finally had to leave on account of hostile Indians.

They then moved to Hoytsville, where he worked as a miller two years. Then he worked in a mill at Wanship a year. Later he lived a short time in Midway. On July 1, 1871, they moved to Heber, where he worked in President Hatch's gristmill some years.

He was a very fine old gentleman, taking much pleasure in telling of his early experiences in Nauvoo, and bore a strong testimony that he knew Joseph Smith was a true Prophet of God. He died at Heber, Utah, very much respected by all who knew him.

Children: Jane Elizabeth Horner, who died in infancy; William Eaton Horner, Jr., who married Amanda Jane Smith, and Sarah Horner, who married Thomas Clotworthy.



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Jane Freeman Pea